

## REASONS, RIGHTS, AND VALUES

A central concern in recent ethical thinking is reasons for action and their relation to obligations, rights, and values. This collection of recent essays by Robert Audi presents an account of what reasons for action are, how they are related to obligation and rights, and how they figure in virtuous conduct. In addition, Audi reflects in his opening essay on his theory of reasons for action, his common-sense intuitionism, and his widely debated principles for balancing religion and politics. Reasons are shown to be basic elements in motivation, grounded in experience, and crucial for justifying actions and for understanding rights. Audi's clear and engaging essays make these advanced debates accessible to students as well as scholars, and this volume will be a valuable resource for readers interested in ethical theory, political theory, applied ethics, or philosophy of action.

ROBERT AUDI is John A. O'Brien Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He has published numerous books and papers, including *The Good in the Right: A Theory of Intuition and Intrinsic Value* (2004), *Practical Reasoning and Ethical Decision* (2006), *Moral Value and Human Diversity* (2007), *Democratic Authority and the Separation of Church and State* (2011), *Moral Perception* (2013), and is Editor-in-Chief of *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, third edition (forthcoming, 2015). He is also a past president of the American Philosophical Association and a former editor of *Journal of Philosophical Research*.

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## *Preface*

The essays in this book represent an integrated selection from the many that I have written in ethics since the publication of my *Moral Knowledge and Ethical Character* in 1997. All of the essays concern one or another aspect of practical reason, but they are grouped to provide, in each case, a detailed treatment of an important subfield of ethics or a major moral question. Part I focuses on reasons for action and develops a theory of both their nature and their grounds. Part II presents my own ethical theory, which, though continuous with the view of W. D. Ross, has been called “the new intuitionism” because of its developments beyond Ross’s view, particularly in bringing to bear results from my several decades of work in epistemology. Part III presents views growing from those in the previous parts: a conception of rights, especially as applicable to practical ethics; a political philosophy as applied to the realm of religion and politics; and a sketch of cosmopolitanism in contrast with both nationalism and patriotism.

Each part is designed to be usable in teaching in areas of ethics that overlap or coincide with those of its essays. Part I might be integrated into a course on practical reason, the theory of value, or metaethics. Part II can be used both in general ethics and in studies of intuitionism, of obligation, or of virtue. It connects all of these areas, and also formulates a Kantian version of intuitionism that has aroused interest both among those interested in intuitionism and in a number of people working in (or on) Kantian ethics. Part III may be of interest both for ethics courses and for a number of courses in political philosophy.

With one exception, the essays appear in essentially their previously published versions with only the minor corrections that come with a second round of copy-editing. The exception is Chapter 8, which has previously appeared only in Polish and has been shortened and somewhat revised for this book. The introduction provides a sense of both the content and the unity of the book and may be helpful to students as well as to

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professional readers. My hope, however – which has much influenced my selection of papers for publication here – is that the clarity of the papers and their many concrete examples will make them accessible to educated non-specialist readers interested in the topics.



## *Acknowledgments*

Each chapter acknowledges – sometimes incompletely – colleagues and others who have commented on an earlier draft or on one or another aspect of the essay in question. Inevitably, when essays have as much history of presentation and critical response as many of these, one cannot recall everyone one would like to credit for helpful comments or illuminating discussion. I am, however, aware of much benefit from discussions with Robert M. Adams, Karl Ameriks, John Broome, Andrew Chignell, Roger Crisp, Georges Enderle, the late Bernard Gert, Kent Greenawalt, Edwin Hartman, Jill Hernandez, Brad Hooker, Daniel Lapsley, Win-chiat Lee, George Letsas, Joseph Mendola, Christian Miller, Patrick Murphy, Thomas Nagel, Darcia Narvaez, Derek Parfit, Peter Railton, Robert Roberts, Bruce Russell, Jack Sammons, T. M. Scanlon, Russ Shafer-Landau, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, the late Robert C. Solomon, Marta Soniewicka, James Sterba, Eleonore Stump, Artur Szutta, Natasza Szutta, John Tasioulas, Mark Timmons, Mark Van Roojen, Paul Weithman, Oliver Williams, Linda Zagzebski, and Lorenzo Zucca.

At the Press, I particularly want to thank Hilary Gaskin for her own substantive advice, for securing helpful comments from anonymous readers of the papers (some of which led to changes in the initial plan), and for facilitating the production process. Rosemary Crawley and Emma Collison have also provided able assistance at several points in bringing the book to publication, and I heartily thank Rima Devereaux for the intensive work of copy-editing and Daniel Immerman for preparing the index.

For permission to reprint the essays I very much want to thank the editors and publishers who brought them to their first publication. These are indicated by the following citations of the chapters in question, though some of the editors are no longer with the journals in question: Ch. 1. “Reasons, Practical Reason, and Practical Reasoning,” *Ratio* (new series) 17, 2, 2004, 119–49 (John Cottingham, editor); Ch. 2. “Intrinsic Value and Reasons for Action,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 41 Supplement, 2003, 30–56

(Nancy Simco, editor); Ch. 3. "The Grounds and Structure of Reasons for Action, from Christoph Lumer and Sandro Nannini, eds., *Intentionality, Deliberation and Autonomy: The Action-Theoretic Basis of Practical Philosophy* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2007), 135–66; Ch. 4. "Practical Reason and the Status of Moral Obligation," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, Supplementary Volume 33, 2010, 197–229 (Sam Black, editor); Ch. 5. "Intuitions, Intuitionism, and Moral Judgment," from Jill Graper Hernandez, ed., *The New Intuitionism* (London: Continuum, 2011), 171–98; Ch. 6. "Kantian Intuitionism as a Framework for the Justification of Moral Judgments," *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*, 2, 2012 (Mark C. Timmons, editor); Ch. 7. "Moral Virtue and Reasons for Action," *Philosophical Issues* (Noûs Supplementary Volume), 19, 2009, 1–20 (Ernest Sosa, editor); Ch. 8. "Virtue Ethics in Theory and Practice," from Natasza Szutta, ed., *Współczesna Etyka Cnot: Możliwości I Ograniczenia* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Semper, 2010), 39–66; Ch. 9. "Wrongs Within Rights," *Philosophical Issues*, 15, 2005, 121–39 (Ernest Sosa, editor); Ch. 10. "Religion and the Politics of Science: Can Evolutionary Biology Be Religiously Neutral?," *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 35, 1–2, 2009, 23–50 (David Rasmussen, editor); and Ch. 11. "Nationalism, Patriotism, and Cosmopolitanism in an Age of Globalization," *The Journal of Ethics*, 13, 2009, 365–81 (Angelo Corlett, editor).